

LA Youth Suicide Prevention

July 20, 2004

Dear Prospective Youth:

The Louisiana Adolescent Suicide Prevention Taskforce is having an Essay/Poster contest. We are targeting youth in the state of Louisiana who are between the ages of 10-19. This contest is very important because it will allow youth to address their personal views on suicide prevention. You can either sign up for the essay contest, which will consist of 250 words or more, participate in the poster contest or both.

The criteria for the essay/poster contest is as follows:

- Be between the ages of 10-19
- Be enrolled in a school in Louisiana
- Must submit enclosed contest entrance form
- Must Submit Essay or Poster no later than **September 10, 2004***
- Must submit one reference form from an adult, parent, or guardian. Please see attached form

The LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to involve your youth in our Essay/Poster contest. You will find enclosed in this package information about the LA Youth Suicide Prevention Taskforce, a Check-List Schedule with important info concerning the Essay/Poster contest, contest instructions and forms for the contestants to complete. For additional information, Contact Trina Evans Williams at 504-568-6636 or by e-mail at tevans@dhh.la.gov.

Please **hand deliver or mail entrees** to the Louisiana Office of Public Health-Louisiana Adolescent Health Initiative at 325 Loyola Ave., RM 610-LA State Building, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Sincerely,

Trina Evans Williams
State Adolescent Health Coordinator / LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force Chairperson
LA Adolescent Health Initiative

A SAFER LOUISIANA STARTS WITH YOU!

Louisiana Adolescent Health Initiative CONTESTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- ❑ **Contestants are to complete and return their forms, essays, posters, or both by the final deadline of Friday, September 10, 2004 to:**
 - ❑ **School Teacher or School Counselor
or**
 - ❑ **Summer Camp Counselor
or**
 - ❑ **Youth Director or Youth Minister**
- ❑ **The School Teacher, School Counselor, Youth Director or Youth Minister should mail the Contestants forms, essays, and posters to Mrs. Trina Evans Williams at:**

**LA Adolescent Health Initiative
325 Loyola Avenue Rm.610
Louisiana State Building
New Orleans, LA 70112**
- ❑ **Use Check Listing schedule as a further guide.**
- ❑ **All submissions must have Contestants name, age, address, contact number and name of school or summer or youth program attached!**

*** CHECK-LIST SCHEDULE ***

- **Contest Entrance & Reference Form Due Date:**
Friday, September 10, 2004!
- **Essay Due Date: September 10, 2004***
 - **Essay Topic:** “Preventing Youth Suicides: The Silent Killer”
 - **Essay Criteria:** 250 words or more, double spaced and font size is 12 (Contestants name, contestants address and contact number, also name of summer camp or church program must be on the Essay!)
- **Poster Due Date: September 10, 2004***
- **Poster’s Theme: “Preventing Youth Suicides: The Silent Killer”**
 - **Poster Criteria:** 11 x 14 White Poster Board (Contestants name, contestants address and contact number, name of summer camp or church program must be on the Poster!)
- **Announcements of the State Essay and Poster Contest Winners: September 19-25, 2004 during the Louisiana Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide and Prevention Week**
 - **Winners will receive the following:**
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Prizewinner-- | \$100 | Mayor’s Certificate |
| 2nd Prizewinner-- | \$50 | Mayor’s Certificate |
| 3rd Prizewinners-- | \$25 | Mayor’s Certificate |
- **1st, 2nd, 3rd Prizewinners will all be invited to an all expense-paid “Awards Luncheon” compliments of the LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force!**
- **All Participants--** **Participant’s Certificate**

**** For questions, please contact Trina Evans Williams, State Adolescent Health Coordinator at the Office of Public Health at (504)-568-6636.****

REFERENCE FORM

Reference name: _____

Relation: _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City/State: _____ **Zipcode:** _____

How Long have you known the Contestant?

Has the contestant grown personally, academically, or spiritually since your first encounter? _____

Write a paragraph stating the positive qualities you feel the contestant can contribute to society.

Reference Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

CONTESTANT ENTRANCE FORM

(check one of the indicated areas)

Essay_____ Poster_____ Essay/Poster_____

Name:_____ Age:_____

Address:_____ Phone:_____

City/State:_____ Zip Code:_____

School:_____ Grade:_____

Cumulative G.P.A. (optional)_____

Church Name
(optional)_____

What are your
hobbies?_____

Reason for entering
contest?_____

Signature:_____ Date:_____

*** We are very excited that you took the time to share your talents and your voice about this topic with us and sincerely –we thank you!***

ABOUT THE LA YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE!

The Office of Public Health -LA Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) of the Family Planning Program is a statewide program that has been established to improve the health status of adolescents in Louisiana by creating a coordinated comprehensive, adolescent health planning and delivery system. The goal of the AHI is for every adolescent in the state of Louisiana to have the opportunity to grow and prosper in a healthy, nurturing, and safe environment. AHI has developed various task forces' whose aim is to better meet the needs of today's youth. One task force in particular is the ***LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force***. The LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force is a statewide response to the Surgeon General's call to action to prevent suicide. The mission of the task force is to develop a statewide plan on youth suicide prevention in Louisiana. In addition the task force's mission is to make a difference in the lives of Louisiana's youth and families, to provide appropriate and timely help, to improve access and availability of prevention services and to prevent youth suicide and suicidal behaviors statewide!

The Task Force is composed of several interested and active partners who are committed to improving the health of Louisiana's youth and who are committed to carrying out the initiatives of the LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force. This Task Force knows that a successful course of action will come only by way of collaborative efforts and effective partnerships. Therefore, this task force consists of the following committed partners: ***LA Adolescent Health Initiative (Chair)***, Adolescent School Health Initiative, Attorney General's Office, Baton Rouge Crisis Center, Children's Bureau, Department of Education, Family Planning Program, FBI, Injury Prevention, Jewish Family Service, Maternal & Child Health, Office of Mental Health, and Volunteer Information Agency.

The Task Force is developing programs such as the ***S.T.A.R. Plan***. We have also implemented House Bill 792 that establishes a program of suicide prevention in Louisiana public schools and Senate Concurrent Resolution 55 that proclaim September 16-22 to be Yellow Ribbon –Youth Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week. The purpose of this task force is to reduce the suicide statistics that exist in Louisiana today. For instance, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death of adolescents nationally and in Louisiana.

The LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force along with the AHI are projects that require the community's involvement. It is important to remember that this Initiative is not about starting a new project or designing a new program. This is an attempt to coordinate resources and activities that are already in place to better serve the state's adolescents. It is a step for the community to begin to decide what is needed to keep their youth healthy and safe. The LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force, therefore, is assisting in this effort, but not dictating its path. For more information about the LA Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force and the S.T.A.R Plan, please contact Trina Evans Williams, the Louisiana State Adolescent Health Coordinator at 504-568-6636.

